

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SW, VM
SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S TALK WITH VIETNAMESE
FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE PROVIDED DCM APRIL 13 WITH PORTIONS OF INTEREST TO USG OF REPORT ON FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER'S TALK APRIL 11 IN HANOI WITH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT MRS. SODER'S COMMENTS RE US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WERE IN ACCORD WITH SWEDISH AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER'S CONVERSATION WITH HOLBROOKE PRIOR TO MRS. SODER'S TRIP. (SINCE THE EMBASSY WAS NOT INFORMED OF HOLBROOKE'S CONVERSATION WITH WACHTMEISTER, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE.) INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. CONVERSATION BETWEEN KARIN SODER AND NGUYEN DUY TRINH 11 APRIL 1978: TRINH REMAINDS SODER OF THE CHINESE CLAIM ON THE ISLAND GROUPS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, "THE EASTERN SEA" IN VIETNAMESE TERMINOLOGY. THE FIVE COUNTRIES IN INDOCHINA HAD DURING THE FRENCH TIME BEEN GOVERNED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVIDE AND RULE. THE PEOPLE THERE HAD HOWEVER BEEN UNITED IN STRUGGLE AND IN VICTORY. NOW VIETNAM
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WAS CONDUCTING A POLICY OF SOLIDARITY WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THE DIFFERENT CONDITIONS IN THE THREE INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND UNDER MAINTENANCE OF INDEPENDENCE. RELATIONS WITH LAOS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED AND STABILIZED. CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH KAMPUCHEA, UP TO NOW THE SITUATION UNFORTUNATELY HAD NOT IMPROVED. TRINH GAVE A LONG REVIEW OF THE

CONFLICT SINCE 1975 WHEN KAMPUCHEAN FORCES LANDED ON THE ISLAND PHU QUOC AND OCCUPIED THE ISLAND THO CHU. IN MAY OF 1975 VIETNAM HAD MADE USE OF ITS RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE, HAD DRIVEN AWAY THOSE FORCES AND PURSUED THEM TO THE ISLAND WAI WHICH THEN LATER WAS ALLOWED BACK TO KAMPUCHEA. TRINH REVIEWED ALSO BOTH COUNTRIES' DIFFERENT VIEWS OF THE BREVIE LINE FROM 1949 WHICH WAS OBSERVED BY KAMPUCHEA AS A SEA BORDER WHILE ACCORDING TO VIETNAMESE VIEWS WOULD ONLY BE A DEMARCATION LINE FOR JURISDICTION OVER ISLANDS IN THE AREA. THE DIFFICULT POINTS IN THE DISPUTES AROUND THE LAND BORDER WOULD BE HA TIEN AND TAY NINH. LARGE RICE AREAS THERE NOW HAD TO BE LEFT UNUSED. THE VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF FEBRUARY 5, 1978, HAD BEEN LEFT UNANSWERED. INSTEAD, KAMPUCHEA HAD UNDERTAKEN NEW MILITARY OPERATIONS. IENG SARY HAD ACCUSED VIETNAM OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN A WRITTEN DOCUMENT MARCH 17, 1978, TO THE CHAIRMAN IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. THAT WAS GROUNDLESS. VIETNAM WOULD BE RESOLVED TO DEFEND ITS INDEPENDENCE AND TO RESPECT THAT OF OTHERS.

3. AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE US IN VIETNAM, LAOS, AND KAMPUCHA, THE TENDENCY TOWARD PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, AND NEUTRALITY HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED. VIETNAM HAD NO
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RELATIONS WITH ASEAN BUT DID HAVE WITH ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY IN THAT ORGANIZATION. TRINH'S TRIP TO THE ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD BEEN A SUCCESS FOR NORMALIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS.

4. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE US THERE HAD BEEN NO DEVELOPMENT IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD AND VIETNAM SHOWED GOOD WILL. THE US HELD FAST WITH AN ABNORMAL ATTITUDE, MAINTAINED THE TRADE BAN, AND AVOIDED THE QUESTION ABOUT HEALING OF THE WAR'S SORES. WHEN THE CONFLICT HAPPENED WITH KAMPUCHEA THE US HAD "STAGED A SPYING CASE" (IN ENGLISH) AND MAINTAINED THAT VIETNAM'S UN AMBASSADOR WAS INVOLVED. THE MOUNTAIN, HOWEVER, HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A MOUSE SINCE THE COURT HAD LAID THE CASE DOWN. MS. SODER POINTED OUT THAT THE US WISHED NORMALIZATION AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING THE TALKS EVEN IF THE QUESTION DID NOT HAVE SUCH A HIGH PRIORITY AND FURTHERMORE WOULD BE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE. END TEXT.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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